

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the Application. By this Amendment, new claims 11-19 are added. The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 8 and 9 are object to because of informalities.

Claims 2 and 4-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 10 are allowed.

Claims 2 and 4-6 are objected to, but would allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in this Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth in this Office Action.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 9 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections and objections. In particular, claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to more distinctly claim the relative positions of the various lens units. Claims 3, 8 and 9 have been amended to correct antecedent basis errors. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

New Claims

New claims 11-19 are directed to the zoom lens system disclosed in the Application. Support for claim 11 is found in previously amended paragraph [0030]. Support for claim 12 is found in paragraph [0032]. Support for claim 13 is found in paragraph [0034]. Support for claim 14 is found in paragraph [0038]. Support for

claim 15 is found in paragraph [0024]. Support for claim 16 is found in paragraph [0041]. Support for claim 17 is found in paragraph [0043]. Support for claims 18 and 19 is found in paragraphs [0024] – [0027], in which the third and fourth lens units are disclosed as having a construction that inherently provides positive optical power. Thus, new claims 11-19 do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

The rejection of claims 2 and 4-6 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to more distinctly claim the relative positions of the various lens units within the zoom lens system.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2 and 4-6 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by one from 2 to 3 (3 claims previously paid for) and increases the total number of claims by 9 from 10 to 19 (20 claims previously paid for), but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no

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separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required for such a Petition for Extension of Time or any other fee required by this response, including any fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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